

EXTRACTS.

THE SOLDIER'S FAREWELL.
[NOT THE CHINESE OF YANG KHONG.]
The gathering fires of war again.
The Western capital ill-ware,
Tranquillity is sought in vain,
And sorrowing hearts are cast with gloom.

The ivy talbot of command—
Bath pass'd again the Phoenix gate,
The Imperial City's votive land—
And hardened stouts won't call wait.
In thickening flakes the mists descend,
The standard frozen flags surround,
And furious blisks their voices blend
With deafening drums' tumultuous sound.
The civil time hath come again,
When who relives a hundred sabres
Is most esteemed than who loses brains
For learning and for science inquire.

H. W. FREELAND.

A STORY OF AN UMBRELLA.

The *Norichirin* of Edo tells a story which may give the bold purchaser of a new method of protecting himself against fraudulent shopkeepers. A young gentleman bought a silk umbrella from an umbrella dealer indefinitely characterized as C—. The next day was rainy; the umbrella was put into use, but the silk tore in six places during the first hour of its contact with the rain. The purchaser went straight to the shop, exhibited the ruined article, and demanded a sound one in its stead. C—'s silk umbrellas, however, were made to sell, not to endure use; the dealer smiled politely, and observed that purchasers ought to be more careful when they made their selection. The young man took home his umbrella, painted around it the following inscription in big letters: "This is how an umbrella looks to-day which was brought at C—'s shop yesterday," and hired a commissioner to walk to and fro before C—'s shop with the opened umbrella for the whole day. This unusual form of advertisement naturally irritated Horr C—, and could not have been without a deterring influence upon possible customers. C— sent for the police, and asked them to arrest the bearer of the umbrella, but they declared that they could see no legal crime in the commissioner's proceeding, and declined to takethim off to gaol. Early the next morning the imperturbable umbrella carrier appeared again, and he kept sentinel in this manner in front of C—'s shop for nearly a week. At the end of this period, the shopkeeper saw that he must give way, and calling the man, asked him to go to his employer and say that everything should be settled according to his wishes. When the bold investor of the stratagem entered the shop, the dealer offered him a sound silk umbrella in exchange for the sickly one. The purchaser agreed to accept it, but added the further demand that the dealer should pay the commission on a week's wages, to which suggestion he was also compelled to assent.

A VIOUS INSECT.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* in Central Asia writes thus from Persia:—When starting from Rosth for Meshar, I had received many and sundry warnings from experts to look out for an exceedingly venomous insect which infests this place. Strange to say, this place alone of all the entire district is so infested. I enter into details on the subject as I know it is one which cannot fail to interest naturalists. It had been warned on the peril of my life not to sleep at Meshar, because there was to be found the *garib-gas* (literally "bite the stranger"). The effect of the bite was described to me as being on the whole much worse than that of the black scorpion. Our horses could carry us no farther, and needless the dread which I had of the creatures described to me, I had perforce to make a half of half an hour at the dreaded station. One of the first questions which I asked of the stable attendants was whether they could show me a specimen of the "bite the stranger." After a few minutes' search, the man brought me out half a dozen in the palm of his hand. The largest was not over the third of an inch in length, and resembled in form what is vulgarly known as the "wood louse" in England. It was of a silvery grey appearance, and had, as I carefully remarked, eight legs, four on each side. I should at once have set it down as one of the arachnid or spider family were it not for the entire absence of the dual division of cephalothorax and abdomen which distinguishes that family. Notwithstanding this, it may, and probably does, belong to the family in question. Its sting is productive of the worst results. A small red point like that produced by the ordinary flea is at first seen. Then follows a large black spot, which subsequently suppures, accompanied by a high fever, identical as far as external symptoms go, with intermittent fever. In this it is like the bite of the tarantula or phalange of the Turcoman plains. The only difference is that the fever produced by the sting of this insect known scientifically as the *argy Persica*, and locally as the *garib-gas* and *gas*, if neglected for any length of time is fatal. It is accompanied by insatiate loss of appetite, and in some cases delirium. It is styled by the inhabitants of the place which it frequents the "bite the stranger" for the inhabitants of the place never experience any in convenience from its sting. There is a general belief that, once a person has been stung, the "Persian bug" is harmless against the same individual, and this would seem to be borne out by fact; for the people living in the village of Meshar laughed at my fears as I carefully perched myself on the top of a rock with a view of keeping out of the way of the local bugs, while the people of the place kept them in impunity in the palms of their hands. Some Austrian officers going to Teheran last year, happened to stay at this hamlet of Meshar, were stung by the *garib-gas*. All were ill, and one narrowly escaped with his life. Numerous cases of death can be cited as the result of the sting of a *argy Persica*. Speaking on the question to a Persian doctor, he informed me that it was the custom, when any important personage was travelling through any district infested by these "Persian bugs," that his attendants administered to him without his knowledge one of the "bugs" concealed in a piece of bread during the early morning. Experience has shown that when one has been bitten, and recovers, he is for the future guaranteed against further injury. It is a kind of inoculation, and the local physicians believe that the poison, taken through the stomach is administered with equally good effect as if received directly into circulation. A leading European member of Teheran society informs me that he had simultaneously received seventy-three stings from these insects, the bites having been caused by his servants. The result was an extreme amount of fever, winding up with delirium on the fifth day. Violent emetics, followed by doses of quinine, were given without effect; and it was only on taking large quantities of tannin, in the form of a decoction of the rind of the wild pomegranate, that the patient recovered. For a great part of my information on this subject I have to thank Mr. Sydney Churchill, of Teheran, a young and rising naturalist, who has devoted much of his time, and talents to the entomology of Persia. I need scarcely say that, finding myself in contact with this abominable "Persian bug," I was in a feverish hurry to get out of the place; and more than one violent obtrusion rose to my lips before the half hour's chasse after several stag-like animals on the hill slope was completed.

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND
ELECTIONEERING.
(CONCLUDED.)

Thus it will be seen that the interview, whatever its nature, between the Honourable Mrs. Darincourt and that Liberal candidate probably had no small effect in bringing about her husband's election; but further extracts from the local journals show at what a heavy cost to the member's domestic happiness it would seem his success was purchased. Great capital was made by the opposing interests out of an astounding report, noised abroad immediately after the scene at the hustings, and which was set forth in the columns of the *Independent Liberal Journal*:—

The mendacity which characterizes Conservative tactics at all times has received a striking illustration from a very painful episode of this election, and we shudder at the performance of a day which lays bare the corruption existing at the heart of that society, whence the Conservative party mainly draw their representatives. We do not envy the successful candidate his feelings as he remembers the price he has paid for his seat. It would appear, in plain language, that, at the moment when our misguided candidate, Percy Flage, Esq., ought to have been standing upon the hustings and expounding his views to his generous supporters, he was flying from the scene where an honourable triumph awaited him! Yes, he was flying, we say, from Fluffborough! Such a real-estate would have been unfortunate enough under any circumstances; but when we further have to state that he was accompanied by a lady, and that that lady was no less a person than the wife of his rival, we think comment is unnecessary. From private sources we learn that the lady had a clandestine visit the evening before to Mr. Flage, when doubtless the elopement of the parties was arranged—for it is known that the lady will have resigned himself to his fate, and have quite got over his anger.

"Ma'am," I say again, "I can't do it." "Purky," she again, "you must; it is the only way of securing your master's seat in Parliament, and you will only be helping to justify him that all's fair in love and electioneering," and that you have only acceded to my orders. If I know him," says Mrs. Darincourt, "the sight of your pretty face will prevent his being angry very long. Then you may tell him you are going to our town house in Berkley-square to fetch a box for me, and that you are coming down here again by an afternoon train. Perhaps, if you play your cards right, he will then try to persuade you not to do so; but here, of course, you must be firm, and insist on being driven to Berkley-square. If he sees you are likely to make a fuss it is his object, he won't object, but, as usual, give way the moment a difficulty arises. I'll wag my best hunting-sabre, and observed that purchasers ought to be more careful when they made their selection. The young man took home his umbrella, painted around it the following inscription in big letters: "This is how an umbrella looks to-day which was brought at C—'s shop yesterday," and hired a commissioner to walk to and fro before C—'s shop with the opened umbrella for the whole day. This unusual form of advertisement naturally irritated Horr C—, and could not have been without a deterring influence upon possible customers. C— sent for the police, and asked them to arrest the bearer of the umbrella, but they declared that they could see no legal crime in the commissioner's proceeding, and declined to takethim off to gaol. Early the next morning the imperturbable umbrella carrier appeared again, and he kept sentinel in this manner in front of C—'s shop for nearly a week. At the end of this period, the shopkeeper saw that he must give way, and calling the man, asked him to go to his employer and say that everything should be settled according to his wishes. When the bold investor of the stratagem entered the shop, the dealer offered him a sound silk umbrella in exchange for the sickly one. The purchaser agreed to accept it, but added the further demand that the dealer should pay the commission on a week's wages, to which suggestion he was also compelled to assent.

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